

TERMS: The Principia

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THE WAR POWER AS ORDAINED OF GOD.

AND THE GUILT AND CONSEQUENCES OF DOING THE
WORK OF THE LORD DECEITFULLY.

Discourse by Rev. Dr. CHEEVER, in the Senate
Chamber in Washington.

PART II.

We were therefore bound to execute justice and to deliver the oppressed out of the hand of the oppressor. We ought to have made property in man impossible, and to have forbidden it forever as a crime. We ought to have crushed and annihilated this rebellion by smiting its cause and striking from existence its central fundamental iniquity.

Why have we not done this? Why have we refused to rise to such a position of justice and glory? In answering these questions, we are brought to the third point of consideration, namely, some of the reasons why God does not accompany his own commission of the power of the land without respect to person. It is a central fundamental article in the Constitution, that "NO PERSON SHALL BE DEPRIVED OF LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY, WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW." If any person or persons are so deprived, the United States Government are bound to interpose for their deliverance, no matter where, or in what state, the outrage may have been committed, and no matter what parentage or race or color may have been pretended in justification of it.

If the government deny and throw off this obligation of protection of all its subjects from such outrage, it puts itself out of the pale of God's commission, out of the category of governments ordained of God, and it is itself a usurper of power, and a rebellion against God. The power and right of freedom and justice for all persons, God has vested in our government, and has committed to us the power of the sword only for the execution of such justice; and the necessity of such justice as an attribute of God, and for the possibility of a righteous and peaceful society on earth, and the command of God to execute it, if need be, by the sword, constitute the only justification and authority for war. But justice is without respect to persons; and our own government are as much bound to defend the liberty of the colored race as of the white man; and this and other provisions make the slavery of either absolutely impossible, if the Constitution were obeyed, if both its letter and its spirit were not violated.

But the moment we reverse these conditions, and thus avoid the supreme right of God and the obligation of justice, the moment we take into partnership and protection the very element of this rebellion, the element most impiously and directly against God and humanity, it arrogated right of slavery, that moment our own place is reversed and we step down from our grand moral supremacy to a level with the position of rebels. We cease to have God on our side, or to be exclusively on the side of God, the moment we suffer ourselves to be entangled in complicity with the atrocious crime of human slavery, the crime of individual and national man-stealing, on which this rebellion and attempted rebellion are grounded.

Had we drawn the sword at the outset for God, justice, and freedom, we should have conquered at the outset; but we chose to say that the power of the sword was not to be used for justice and against slavery; and so doing, we were shorn of our strength. We threw away our moral argument and weapon, as if we did not dare to take such an advantage against the rebels; and consequently it was "set a thief to catch a thief;" seventy five thousand men on our side were no better than seventy five thousand men on theirs. Had we gone forth in the name of God for the freedom of the enslaved, the first seventy-five thousand would have been all the force needed; for that power of the sword would have been God's power. But we denied and excluded the moral power, and God's emancipating object, in the war, and the consequence was that with all our mighty superiority, after more than eighteen months fighting, the result still hung in doubt, and even now trembles in the balance.

It is actually a problem, whether a nation of twenty millions of freemen is not about to yield itself up, with all its overwhelming preponderance of power, wealth, numbers, armaments of war, and all possible righteous prerogatives, if resting on the justice of its cause, and on the God of justice to be destroyed by five millions of "poor white trash," led to rebellion by three hundred thousand slaveholders, for the supremacy and security of the practise of human slavery. We have suffered this question to grow to a problem in the opinion of the world, by permitting the rebellion itself to grow to so gigantic an armed power, and to obtain in some sort the semblance of a just quarrel, through our own sanction of its corner stone, and our own reluctance and delay to strike at slavery.

For our government and people, instead of saying this rebellion shall at all hazards be put down with the cause of it,—instead of throwing ourselves on God and justice, and in his name proceeding to destroy and forbid the slavery on which this rebellion is grounded, and for which the rebels fight, and which constitutes their strength by our forbearance (though if we took the right side, their weakness and destruction), have declared from the outset that they had no quarrel against slavery, and were not fighting to put down that crime, but on the contrary were ready to reward the rebellion and the rebels with the gift of their coveted slavery renewed and guaranteed to them in perpetuity, if they would only return, submissive, into the Union.

Our foreign diplomacy has made this most pernicious impression upon the nations of Europe in several particulars; first, that there was no moral question involved in this quarrel; second, that it was a very unimportant quarrel, and temporary, an affair of sixty or ninety days; third, that when it was over, the parties concerned were all to resume the same position and rights, and all persons in the United States to return to the same status, as before the rebellion; fourth, that the advocates of universal emancipation stand on the same ground as those who are laboring to destroy the Federal Union, and are working together for a servile insurrection; and fifth, that a place in our own Congress still belongs to the rebel states, these being the Constitutional forum, where the alienated parties may discuss their own rights and treatment.

You made it a decree of justice that black men have no rights that white men are bound to respect, and now the black man is supreme in all your counsels, and God's decree has gone forth, that white men shall have no rights in peace, till the black man's are conceded.

You said you would not interfere in behalf of the enslaved where they were, nor against slaves, except where it was not; you agreed to prevent all interference, and you added the proposition of an amendment to the Constitution, forbidding such interferences, and securing non-interference forever by a provision that itself should never be amended, thus making slavery perpetual. But in the merciful providence of God, the rebellion and the war prevented this atrocious measure from being consummated, and God is now compelling the nation into an actual armed interference, against its own intention and pretended pledge.

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Almighty shall have them in derision. The President and people solemnly resolve not to interfere with slavery where it is. In less than one year

we have not only ourselves considered the possibility of such a step, but have actually God takes the whole nation, and arrays the slave-

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WHOLE NO. 154.

made the offer of the compact, and pledged the freedom of slavery and slaveholding forever, as the inducement for the rebel states to accept of it.

All this, on our part, has constituted a refusal to obey God, and a betrayal of the cause of freedom and justice, all the while that we were fighting to put down the rebellion against our own government. We have taken the sword, but refused to do the work of freedom and justice, for which alone God gives the commission of the sword. So long as we maintained that position, and refused the edict of emancipation, until it should become a necessity for our own preservation, how could we imagine that God would bless us, rendering success impossible, according to the revealed principles of his administration as the Supreme Ruler of the nations?

By the good providence of God, we possessed in our own Constitution of Government, as well as in the nature of government as ordained of God, the power and right of forbidding the possibility of the wickedness of slavery. It was an obligation of protection, which we are bound to fulfil in behalf of all the inhabitants of the land without respect to person. It is a central fundamental article in the Constitution, that "NO PERSON SHALL BE DEPRIVED OF LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY, WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW." If any person or persons are so deprived, the United States Government are bound to interpose for their deliverance, no matter where, or in what state, the outrage may have been committed, and a partnership in it, and God will make the nation pay for it to the uttermost.

(To be concluded.)

FROM GEN. BANKS' DEPARTMENT.

Condition of the Department.—The Planters' Convention.—A Traitor's Declaration.—Gen. Banks' Speech.—General Banks' Opposition to Negro Enslavement.—His Oppression of the Negroes.—A Rebel Mob.—Disorders of the Soldiers.—Probabilities of a Rebel attack.

BATON ROUGE, La., Feb. 26, 1863.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

In the first paragraph, from Washington:

"So far from being a wise and judicious reflection, in the command of Gen. Banks, as reported by the rebels, authentic information, received here, shows a directly contrary state of affairs."

I am not able to affirm or deny this precise statement, for in these regions, inaccessible by any intelligence except such as comes by steamer, over the water, the news reported of the condition of any Southern community ever had. Under it, the negro goes to his foil, and remains at it, at the very point of the Northern bayonet. The planter ought to be rejoiced at a war which has well to exhaust our Northern industries of their strong and skillful arms and hands, to empty our colleges of our youth, to snatch fathers and sons from families that they love, to come here and escape, and fight amid the humid air of these marshes, which is wrong to take a shelter from planters who pray for nothing but a casket, as far as those forces that will leave them to rush into the arms of the Southern rebellion, which they love.

Yet these singular steps have been taken by the commanding General, in addition to organizing, at the national expense, a more efficient army, to subdue the rebellion, than any Southern community ever had. Under it, the negro goes to his foil, and remains at it, at the very point of the Northern bayonet. The planter ought to be rejoiced at a war which has well to exhaust our Northern industries of their strong and skillful arms and hands, to empty our colleges of our youth, to snatch fathers and sons from families that they love, to come here and escape, and fight amid the humid air of these marshes, which is wrong to take a shelter from planters who pray for nothing but a casket, as far as those forces that will leave them to rush into the arms of the Southern rebellion, which they love.

And it occasioned no surprise, therefore, when its more open manifestations appeared. On the day after Gen. Banks' speech, a number of rebel prisoners were to be sent up the river, for exchange. A vast crowd assembled at the Rebels' flags were fluttered. Yankees were numerous. Officers and men, with their heads bowed, led leaders were given, and a street fight became imminent. It has merely been postponed. A mob gains strength by a partial success. Their people are now armed, to a greater or less extent. They will use their arms, and I predict, that on the first happening of any event attracting large crowds, blood will be freely shed, in the streets.

This tendency of treason to grow rampant, has failed to attract the attention of the soldiers. They freely discuss it, and its cause. The testimony is undisputed, that it is the product of the mild policy now pursued. The men whom Gen. Banks brought to this department, concurred with the rebels and officers in Gen. Butler, had with him a decided aversion to the negro, and a desire to have him as far from them as possible. They are not to be reached by any influences except those which war offers; and, if I infer from the extract I have placed at the head of this letter, there is a belief, at Washington, that our soldiers here, are satisfied with events, as they have happened for a few weeks past, and are now prepared to say, after the most ample means of knowing that a more gross error in belief never existed.

I came into these regions indulging that belief, walked the streets of Baton Rouge, and inquiry and inquiry made me doubt. I came up to this city, pausing among the soldiers and citizens that live along the river, and giving an understanding, but no tongue, to what I heard and saw. I have here been favored with abundant opportunities of finding what the officer, in his quarters, the soldier, in his tent, and the seaman, in his cabin, the present state of affairs, are. In this department, I have been favored with much information, which ought to be known to a government and a people who solace themselves with the belief that everything is satisfactory to officers, and soldiers, and the loyal populace.

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tures must have been immense, as they seem, in places, to form the body of the rock—only sand enough with them to cement them together. In some places the formation of rock is incomplete, and they are imbedded in the loose sand. Such a country would certainly afford a rich field for the mind of a Hugh Miller.

In few places can more be seen of God's wonderful ways of working—creating, and again destroying the work of his hands, in order to carry on some grand work of his Providence. Here we see millions of living creatures, that have been brought into existence, and then destroyed, in order to fit the earth's surface for a higher race of beings. And now, on the same soil, we see human life sacrificed, to prepare the country for the enjoyment of higher social and political relations, still a carrying out of God's great plan.

These sandy hills form very convenient foundations for the soldiers' winter quarters, which are generally formed by selecting a site on the hill side, and digging a level floor, which is considerably below the surface, at the upper side. At this side a fire place, generally cut, and a small chimney formed of sticks and mortar, or by setting up a barrel with both heads knocked out. A hut is then formed of logs or poles, according to the fancy of the architect. A rude bank is constructed of poles, and covered with pine or cedar branches, for a bed. The roof is composed of whatever kind of tents the soldiers may be supplied with, or, in the absence of tents, with rubber blankets.

There is a pretty strong pro-slavery element in this part of the army, which I think is, in a great measure, owing to the character of reading circulated among them. The "Herald" is distributed in immense numbers, and many seem to take its teachings as pure gospel.

The weather has been fine for a few days, and the mud is drying up. Old soldiers are beginning to fear another movement on Fredericksburg. Those who have been out any length of time, are not very keen for fighting. And why should they be, when they have fought so many hard battles, and gained so few real victories? May a better day soon dawn for the Army of the Potomac, is the hope of

W. H. M.

The Principia.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1863

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Those who contribute are requested to state to which of the above classes they wish their funds applied, or whether they will have it discreted.

All donations will be acknowledged through the mail, and receipts for the paper sent to the parties with the donor's name in every case, when practicable.

J. W. ALDEN
Treasurer and Publisher.

"THE WAR."

—
The Princeton Review Reviewed.—In the light of its own theology and ethics.

NUMBER ONE.

The Starting Point.—The Biblical Repository and Princeton Review for January, has an elaborate article on "The War," which contains some things which we heartily approve, along with other things from which we must most earnestly dissent.

With the starting point of the Review, in two particulars, we cordially concur.

I. NEUTRALITY AND SILENCE IMPOSSIBLE.

The article opens with very decided and timely repudiation of the theory of silence that has so long brooded over the churches.

"None of the frivolous can in this matter be indifferent or neutral. Men must take sides, and they must speak out. Silence is impossible. The language of the community do, and must, find expression in the family altar, from the pulpit, the forum, and the press."

religious men either allowable or possible. There never was a time when the public conscience was more disturbed than it was, nor was it necessary that moral principles in their bearing on national conduct should be clearly presented.

THE SOUTHERN GALE BREAKING.

"THE NORTHERN REACTION" SUBSIDING.

Our condolence is due to the New York Observer on the unmistakable signs that "the Great Northern Reaction," of which it considers the late sermon of Rev. Albert Barnes "the most remarkable index," is on the decline, and running out, as rapidly as it had set in. It reminds us of the outrush of the waters of the Narragansett, after the terrible southerly gale and inundation of Providence, R. I., in 1815, which left large ships high and dry in the streets and on the commons, half a mile or more from the harbor. Already we think we can see, in prospect, the kindred black bulk of stranded demagogues, semi-traitors, and their ecclesiastical backers, sponsors, and godfathers in a similar predicament. It will cost more to get them off, and afloat again, after the southerly gale is over, than it would take to build better craft anew. The last thing that could be done with many of them would be—as was done in 1815—to put them up at auction to the highest bidder, to be broken up for the bolts, spars, copper and fuel that can be got out of, or off from them. They were respectable vessels enough, in their day, freighted sometimes, with rich cargoes, and had carried clothing, sustenance, and numberless accommodations to the heart-souls and fire-sides of families, had been crowded with joyous passengers, had earned princely fortunes for their owners—mansions, warehouses, and bank-stock. But their day was over. They were wrecked. The most of them, as lying snug in the harbor, were uninsured. One of them, however, all ready for sea, had been insured a few hours before, at the Washington Insurance Office, whose tall brick edifice overlooked the channel of the river by the Great Bridge. A Leviathan of a ship she was, but she broke loose from her fastenings, in the southerly gale, as some great ships do, now and then, under similar influences, rushing recklessly with the tide, till, striking the bridge, it gave way, her bow-split, in mockery of her policy of insurance, staying in the upper story of her insurance office, and bringing up at the distant head of the Cove, where she laid her bones. We have been trying to recall her name. It may not have been the "Scymon," but that name is somehow suggested to me by the memory of her sad fate.

Let all great ship-owners, ship-masters, and insurers take warning in this time of our nation's great southerly gale. Many great ships will be stranded, and their political and ecclesiastical influence over people of this country should be roused by the trials through which we are now passing, to turn their minds to God, to recognise their dependence upon him, and their obligation to make his will their rule of action as a nation. If this war should burn into the national consciousness the conviction that what is wrong never can be expedient, we shall not have suffered in vain."

As we are happily agreed with the Princeton Review, in its starting point, it will give us great pleasure to accompany it through the whole journey, provided it will adhere to the principles with which it commences. But if we find it running in a diametrically opposite direction, we shall be compelled to part company with it, and must be permitted to point out its want of consistency with its own creed.

Every reader and hearer of anti-slavery discussions, for thirty years past, will recognize, in the preceding extract, from the Princeton Review, a clear and unequivocal assertion of the foundation principle upon which radical abolitionists, so-called, have planted themselves, from the very beginning of their enterprise, and to which they have perseveringly adhered, in despite of reprobation and persecution, to the present day. The whole gist of the controversy between them and their opponents, political and ecclesiastical, has concentrated itself, just here. That "the system of slavery, as it exists in this country, is a great moral evil" (we quote from the article under review) has almost universally been conceded to them. But it has been pleaded, that under the circumstances that exist, great mischiefs would arise from immediate abolition, and therefore it was inexpedient to abolish it, or even to agitate the subject. That slaveholding is not, in all cases, sinful, has been confidently maintained, on the very same ground. Few have ventured to deny that the practice is "wrong in the abstract," but to insist upon the abstract right, against the dictates of expediency, has been almost universally condemned as fanatical, impracticable, visionary, and destructive. The paragraph just quoted, says, truly, that "according to a scheme of ethics, which for many years, has been taught extensively in Europe and America, there is no higher principle of action than expediency"—"Radical abolitionists, so far as the slavery question is concerned, have stood alone in refusing to act upon that scheme of ethics. If the Princeton Theologians have been, during the same time—as we then have—a right, as radical abolitionists, to demand of those theologians that they should show their faith, by their works, by placing themselves alongside of us, in our measures, which are only the uncompromising results of their own theory—when they do this, they will abandon all schemes of colonization, compensation, and gradualism, which are all founded on expediency and will demand the immediate and unconditional abolition of slavery, a measure undoubtedly demanded by the dictates of justice and eternal right. This they must, of necessity, do, and abandon, at this point, their high-toned orthodox theology, or else they must take the ultra-Southern ground that slavery is right in the abstract, an institution of God, for the benefit of mankind, whether black or white, whether at the North or the South. On this "men must take sides—they must speak out—silence is impossible."

On the slavery question, as truly as on the war question, there are but two sides, and on one side, or the other, every man must take his stand; and this is truly the grand truth.

The gale of 1815, in Providence, soon reached its height, fulfilled its mission, and then suddenly broke. The sun shone out brightly, the waters receded, the north-westerly breeze blew sweetly. The people went cheerfully to work, and built up their city, enlarged, and improved, more beautiful than ever. No traces of the southerly gale are seen there now.

Notwithstanding the Proclamation of the President, declaring and establishing the freedom of all the slaves in Georgia, for example, the Editor of the Tribune maintains that the President could not constrain that State to treat those slaves as free. Of course, that State, and any State, has the right to nullify a decree of the United States, simply by passing laws of its own in opposition to it. If any State sees fit to make slaves of any class of its citizens, and chooses to treat them as such, the government of the United States has no power nor right to prevent it!

This is a new theory of what constitutes a republican government. If a subject of any foreign Government were enslaved by State-law, it is the Tribune's argument that that government could interfere, and the Federal Government, notwithstanding such State-law. But for a subject and citizen of our own government, our own government would have no right to interfere! This is truly grand noble!

We will give the neighbor the information called for, and quote from the Constitution, "Art. IV., Sec. 4," which reads thus: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union, a republican form of Government, and shall protect them against invasion," &c., and "against domestic violence."

The President has taken a solemn oath before earth and heaven to support the Constitution. Is he to trample the Constitution under foot as rebels have done, falsify his oath, let Georgia ride rough shod over the nation, and allow State enactments against freedom to usurp the place of Constitutional law? Is slavery in harmony with a "republican form of government?" Is the proclamation of freedom all a sham fight with slavery? Have the free states furnished a million of men and a thousand millions of dollars, merely to enable the Executive to obtain the loyalty of the rebel states by purchase, and re-enslave three millions of men, women, and children, as the price? Do we not see the convictions of the people, though politicians may work over so hard to carry out that sentence?

Is the decree of our government constituting its own citizens freemen, any less binding than a treaty with a foreign government? Are not the laws of the United States government in respect to the supreme law of the land, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding?

Are promises to Foreign Governments under the title of treaties, any more binding or supreme, as the law of the land, than the rights and sources of freedom and protection to our own citizens?

We ask that all this is but the introduction to a vast act of perfidy and cruelty on the part of our government, in a compromise with slavery for the sake of the Union. We fear that the intention of the government that the rebel states should return into the Union with the same slaveholding rights with which they went out of it, and that the status of every person would be the same at the close of the conflict as before. Is this the plan now to be acted on? Mr. Seward is known to have been opposed to the policy of emancipation. His despatches abroad prove this. He is not known to have changed his opinion. It is now rumored that the proclamation of emancipation is to be a nullity, and that the rebel states are to be invited back into the Union with their slavery as before, and themselves supreme over us. They will thus be gained by this rebellion over a new guarantee of their slavery by the United States Government, and we shall have lost honor, faith, name, place, except as a conquered nation, a scolding and a by-word of injustice, hypocrisy, cowardice, a nation of moral poitrons.

Is it possible that such iniquity and treachery as this can be in contemplation? Alas, there are too many things that look like it; that look as if our government were not only half-hearted in this war, but willing to be half-bent, willing not to conquer so far as to subdue, willing to compromise, willing to hurt the rebels as little as possible, willing to spare their slavery as much as possible, willing to save the Union and slavery, if that be possible, willing to prolong the war indefinitely on our part, till the people shall be wearied of it, and despairing of success, shall accept of Mr. Seward's plan of settlement, with slavery supreme. That the government are perfectly willing to sacrifice the slaves for the sake of the Union we have our own assurance. We have President Lincoln's repeated assurance that the policy of Emancipation is only a dire necessity, and consequently, as an oath on compulsion is supposed to be not obligatory, the Government may be supposed to have issued the proclamation of freedom with a perfect right to take it back, and return the slaves into slavery, the moment the necessity is removed, under which their freedom was covenanted.

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THE PRINCIPIA.

Put this by the side of two other facts. Stephen A. Douglas died insolvent, one of his principle creditors being a colored man who held a mortgage on his real estate for money loaned. And it has been now announced that Fernando Wood has been compelled to make an assignment of his effects to his creditors, in consequence of gold and other speculations, and the costs of unsuccessful expeditions (?) at Albany to obtain the office of United States Senator. These are the statesmen (?) that demand about the negroes not knowing enough to take care of themselves.

Colored Soldiers.—*The New York World* is reporting over the supposed prospect that the enlistment of colored volunteers, at the North, will prove a failure, and are deriding the colored people for their backwardness. Having done all it can to defeat the policy of inviting them, it hopes that they will not enlist, yet signifies them with opprobrious epithets, because they do not enlist more generally and readily. Let them not exist, prematurely. How they would groan and rage to see a large colored force in the field. Our colored friends, we trust, will give them the opportunity to change their tune, before long.

The Nubian Regiment.—The French Emperor, as our readers know, has lately pro- ceded from Egypt, a military force of Nubian negroes, to aid him in his wars in Mexico. It turns out that the Pasha of Egypt, in his haste to respond to the Emperor's call, sent out the colored troops without asking their consent, or even telling them where they were going. Lord Palmerston, in the British Parliament, has severely censured the transaction, as worse than a revival of the slave-trade.

New Congress. It is now thought that the new House of Representatives will have a working majority of Republicans. But will they all be progressive men? It will be of no use to have Hunker Republicans. They might as well be Hunker Democrats.

THE WAR.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14.

Tennessee. Some skirmishing has occurred in the vicinity of Nashville, between Gen. Rosecrans' advance, under Gen. Granger, and a portion of Van Dorn's forces. A number of rebels were captured, Van Dorn has since retreated towards Shilohville. It is reported that Col. Culbourn, with 2,000 of his men, (who it will be remembered, were captured by the rebels, at Springfield) have escaped, and were making their way towards Union lines. It is stated that Gen. Bragg—now at Shilohville—has been reinforced by some 22,000 men, and that a formidable invasion of Kentucky is threatened.

Important Rumors. A dispatch from Memphis, to the Cincinnati *Gazette*, reports a fight on the Yazoo river, in which 7,000 rebel prisoners and 8 transports were captured. No particulars are given, and the story is not fully credited. It is also rumored that Forts Henry and Donelson have been taken by the rebels.

Skirmish in Kentucky. A skirmish has taken place twelve miles east of Paris, Ky. A Union force train was attacked by 50 guerrillas. They were, however, effectually beaten off.

Port Royal Advances. The 8th, and give another particulars regarding the bombardment of Port McAllister. The Monitors had all returned to Port Royal in a good condition. A 10-inch mortar shell struck the deck of the Passaic, but did not go through, and a torpedo exploded under the Montauk, raising her one foot out of the water, but doing her no damage. Some considerable injury was done the Port, but our vessels did not succeed in getting sufficiently near the aid of glass.

Negroes in Rebel Service. We have further evidence of the employment of negroes by the rebels. A dispatch from the Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, says:

"The pickets of the enemy, along certain portions of the line, on the opposite side of the Rappahannock, are one half negroes, and one half white men. The negroes are armed and uniformed the same as the whites. The fact appears beyond a question, only 100 to 150 yards intervening between our pickets and the enemy's, and they are plainly to be seen, without the aid of a glass."

In addition to this, the Nashville Union states that during the recent fight, at Franklin, Tenn., one of our batteries was attacked by two rebel negro regiments.

Capture of Blockade-runners. The gunboat *Belle* of the Confederate Navy, arrived here yesterday, from Port Royal. After an exciting chase, she had captured a blockade-runner, off Cape Fear. The prize proved to be the British iron propeller *Douro*, with a cargo of 420 bales cotton, from Wilmington, and bound to New Orleans. She was ordered to this port, for adjudication under the Act of Acting Ensigns law. This is the fifth prize captured by the Quaker City, under Commander Ballou.

Admiral Dupont informs the government of the capture of the schooner *Belle* of Nassau, by the United States steamer *Potomac*. The *Belle* was a blockade-runner—World.

Colonelcy of a Colored Brigade. The Colonels of a regiment in the colored brigade, now being organized by Gen. Ulman, have agreed to and accepted by Capt. Henry G. Thomas, of the United States Infantry, who is the regular officer to represent such a command. Colored Thomas is a native of Maine.—Washington Cor. Tribune.

President Lincoln has issued a Proclamation ordering all soldiers now absent from their regiments, without leave, to return before the first of April. Such do not comply, are to be punished as deserters. Is the Administration waking up?

MONDAY, MARCH 16.

Rumors, rather than reliable news, seem to be the order of the day. The story of the capture of Yazoo city, and the destruction of the rebel fleet, is repeated and insisted upon, though it does not come in my authenticated form, and should, therefore, be received with caution. It is also reported that Vicksburg is being evacuated, and that great successes are about to be gained by the Federal forces. For our part, we prefer to wait till we are quite sure that we have gained a victory, before we waste powder in celebrating it. The rumors of rebel successes at Fort Henry and Donelson, are contradicted, though it is now stated that a force of 12,000 rebels are within 20 miles of the latter strong-hold, and that our boys are ready for them.

The Truth about the Indiana. The fate of the *Indiana*, so long shrouded in mystery, is, at length, definitely ascertained. An ingenuous ruse of Admiral Porter, by which a mock "turreted monster" was sent down the river, to alarm the rebels, succeeded to perfection. The harmless, unarmed and unarmed old coal-barge struck terror to the chivalry of Vicksburg; batteries at once opened upon it, and the *Indiana* was blown up, to prevent her falling into the hands of the "Yankees." We give the official report of Admiral Porter, to Secretary Welles.

U. S. MISSOURI SQUADRON, YAZOO RIVER, 1. The Hon. Wm. M. Murphy and Louisville, 13th.) I have been pretty well assured, for some time past, that the *Indiana* was blown up, in consequence of the appearance of a wooden representation of her, with her turrets, which was forced away from her, and caused the blowing up of the *Indiana*.

The following is an account of the affair, taken from the Vicksburg *Whig*, of the 5th inst.:

Description of the Indiana.—We stated, a day or two since, that we would not enlighten our readers, regar- dant to a matter which was puzzling them very much, and which had led to the loss of the gunboat *Indiana*, recently sent from the enemy. We were loth to acknowledge she had been destroyed, but such is the case.

"The Yankees barge sent down the river, last week, was reported to be an iron-clad gunboat.

The authorities, thinking that this monster would retake the *Indiana*, immediately issued an order to blow her up. The order was sent down, by courier, to the officer in charge of the vessel.

"A few hours afterward, another order was sent down, countering the first, it being ascertained that the monstrous craft was only a ship, but, before it reached the *Indiana*, she was blown to atoms—not even a gun was saved. Who is to blame for this folly?—this presumption?"

"It would really seem as if we had no use for gunboats on the Mississippi, as a coal barge is magnified into a monster, and our authorities immediately order a boat that would have been worth a small army to us, to be blown up."

D. D. PORTER, Squadron.

Department of the South. By the arrival of the Arago, we have Port Royal dates to the 12th inst. Gen. Naglee has been relieved from command, by order of Gen. Hunter, and has come North. An order has been issued drafting all male negroes, in the Department of the South, between the ages of 18 and 50. It runs as follows:

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, / HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL, S. C. / March 12, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 17.—In view of the necessities of the military situation, the impossibility of obtaining, from Government, all the troops required for service in this Department, and the paramount importance (in view of the existing concentration of foreign policy) of at once placing strong garrisons in the Southern ports and towns, in this Department, in order that the troops now there may be used in the more active field operations, for which they are better suited—such forts and posts being peculiarly liable to the ravages of climate and epidemic diseases—all able-bodied male negroes, between the ages of 18 and 50, with the military rank of private, will be required to serve in the Yazzoo expedition, to be fitted out by the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments, or as the private servants of officers, within the allowance made by the Army Regulations, are hereby drafted into the military service of the United States, to serve as non-commissioned officers and soldiers, in the various regiments and brigades, now being organized, and in process of being organized, by Brig.-Gen. Rufus Saxton, specially authorized to make such troops, by orders of the War Department.

Until other arrangements can be made, the families of all negroes, thus drafted, will be provided for by orders which will be issued, and confidently hope that the scarcity of labor will be removed by the arrival of the negroes, who will be sent to the various regiments and brigades, now being organized, to make up the quota of each.

General McLernand's troops were compelled to embark for Milliken's Bend, sixteen miles above Vicksburg, owing to high water.

According to a dispatch from Paducah and elsewhere, which reported the arrival of some 100 hundred miles of Louisiana territory, destroying millions of dollars' worth of property.

The guerrillas were completely drowned out.

A refugee from Georgia, who arrived at Mar-freedom yesterday, reports terrible destruction in Northern Alabama and Georgia.

Gen. McLernand's brigade arrived at Cairo on Saturday.

CINCINNATI, March 16.—The *Gazette's* Vicksburgh dispatch says the Yazzoo Pass expedition has captured twenty-six steamboats, eighteen of which were destroyed. The gunboats have arrived above Haines's Bluff, and are now in sight.

There were five of the evacuation of Vicksburg, and it was supposed that the greater part of the same Polish blood runs in our veins, so the same sentiment, like an electric spark, having awakened in our hearts the love for our Fatherland, has brought us to our sons' place.

Commodore Foote, in our harbor, has been buried at sea, from his boat, with full military honors, and the gunboats have arrived above Haines's Bluff, which is poorly fortified against attack from above. Our fleet captured twenty-six transports up the Yazzoo.

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